

Special congratulations to Marrisca Suchyta, the second place winner in the junior individual documentary category, and Aruj Chaudhry, the third place winner in the senior individual paper category.

Finally, dedicated Illinois teachers worked throughout the academic year with these students so that they could be successful in competing with over 500,000 students nationwide.

Congratulations to their teachers: Angie Carr, Balazs Dibuz, Mario Garcia, Melissa Craig, Ron Solberg, Carlton Oquendo, Betsy Brown, Patricia Grunde, Ann Patricia Duffy, Leslie Contos, David Barber, Sherri Massa, Chris Salituro, Aggie Nowak, Cathy Bednar, Peggy Hall-Heineman, Patricia Grimmer, Sandra Koehler, Janet Kelsey, Chris DeMato, Barry Bradford, Claire Finn, Therese Hawkins, Sandra Koehler, and Claire Finn.

I commend these students on their achievements and encourage them to continue their pursuit of academic excellence.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### MAYOR-ELECT ANTONIO VILLARAIGOSA

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I rise to salute a wonderful and historic event that is about to take place in my home State. On Friday, July 1, 2005, Antonio Villaraigosa will be sworn in as mayor of the great city of Los Angeles, CA.

With nearly 4 million residents, Los Angeles is a huge and dynamic city, and running it well will be a huge challenge. But Antonio Villaraigosa is ready, willing, and able to do the job.

I believe that Mayor Villaraigosa has the intelligence, talent, energy, courage, compassion, imagination, and experience needed to unite Los Angeles and move it forward to new greatness.

Antonio has shown this ability throughout his career as a labor leader, civic leader, and elected official. He has worked with Democrats and Republicans from all backgrounds and all parts of California to improve education, protect the rights of working families, expand health care coverage, and make our communities safer, better places to live.

Time and again, he has demonstrated the leadership skills that will help him make Los Angeles one of the world's great cities of the 21st century.

Antonio Villaraigosa has already made history by becoming the first Latino mayor of Los Angeles since 1872, but he has set his sights even higher. He hopes to make history by making Los Angeles work for all its residents, and I will do all I can to help him.●

##### TRIBUTE TO DR. PHYLLIS LEVENSTEIN

• Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, on May 28, New York and our Nation lost

one of its finest child advocates, innovators, and clinicians. Dr. Phyllis Levenstein, longtime Wantagh, NY, resident and founder of The Parent-Child Home Program, an international early literacy, school readiness program, passed away shortly after returning to Long Island to celebrate the program's 40th anniversary.

She was born Phyllis Aronson in Boston and grew up in Detroit. After graduating from Wayne State University in 1937, she taught in Detroit before coming to New York, where she earned a master's degree in social work in 1944 and a doctorate from Columbia University in 1969. She met her husband, Sidney Levenstein while working as a social worker in Manhattan during World War II. They married in 1946 and moved to Wantagh in 1957. Sidney, an Adelphi University Professor, who died in 1974, helped Phyllis develop The Parent-Child Home Program model.

In 1965, she identified parent-child interaction as the key to the development of early language skills and working with her husband, a statistician, created a pioneering model program. The Parent-Child Home Program, which Dr. Levenstein first piloted in Freeport, NY, in 1965, is a home-visiting program for families with 2- and 3-year-olds challenged by poverty and low levels of education. The program encourages parent-child verbal interaction through talking, reading, and playing and helps families create a language-rich environment in their homes. Longitudinal research shows that children who complete the 2-year program enter school ready to learn and graduate high school at the same rate as middle-income students. The program that began serving just 5 Long Island families in 1965 will reach 5,000 disadvantaged families across the country this year.

Dr. Levenstein's genius was in seeing the critical importance of parents engaging in continual verbal interaction with their young children through talking, reading, playing, and asking questions.

Over the years, she conducted and published significant research on the program's design and outcomes. The 88-year-old clinical psychologist was working on an expanded edition of her 1988 book about parent-child verbal interaction, "Messages from Home," when she passed away. A practicing clinical psychologist, Dr. Levenstein was in private practice in Wantagh for 44 years and continued to see patients up until her death. She also was affiliated with Stony Brook University and a number of Long Island mental health and child guidance centers.

Dr. Levenstein was a fellow of the American Orthopsychiatric Association and the American Psychological Association and a member of the American Educational Research Association and the Nassau County and New York State psychological associations.

Her children describe her as a person who derived true joy from helping peo-

ple and say that her soft touch was well-matched by her scientific tough-mindedness. Her principled humanism led as well to a lifelong impassioned advocacy of peace and social justice. Her colleagues will remember her great intelligence, intensity, and wisdom, coupled with integrity, warmth, and humility.●

##### MCCROSSAN BOYS RANCH CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

• Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, it is with great honor that I rise today to congratulate the McCrossan Boys Ranch of Sioux Falls, SD, as it celebrates 50 years of outstanding service on June 29, 2005.

Established by Melinda Bell McCrossan, as the result of trust she created in honor of her late husband, the McCrossan Boys Ranch is a private, not-for-profit organization "dedicated to providing a place for boys to grow into men." Since its inception, Mrs. McCrossan determined that the ranch would be "a home where boys find a new hope for a better life."

In 1953, money from the trust was used to purchase four hospital buildings from the Sioux Falls Air Force Base that had been used during World War II. The buildings were transported 8 miles northwest of Sioux Falls, to the current location of the McCrossan Ranch. In 1955, the McCrossan Boys Ranch came to fruition as a working horse and sheep ranch designed to help boys between the ages of 10 and 18 handle the conflict in their lives and successfully live up their own potential.

Education has always been one of the ranch's top priorities, as the organization stresses formal education, which includes academic and vocational instruction, as well as productive work and life skills. Prior to 1978, all residents on the ranch attended local public schools. However, now that the ranch operates its own on-campus approved special education program through a partnership with East Dakota Educational Cooperative, 85 percent of all residents attend the ranch's school. The other 15 percent attend local public schools, as reintegration into the public school system is the ranch's ultimate goal for all the boys.

Although residents are there for a myriad of reasons, the McCrossan Boys Ranch makes certain to provide each student with ample individual attention, in addition to the required weekly group goals sessions. Anger management, corrective thinking, victim empathy and various other issues are also addressed through these workshops.

In early 2004, McCrossan Boys Ranch received national accreditation from the American Corrections Association, with a 99.6 percent rating. This honor makes the ranch one of only three correctional facilities in all of South Dakota to hold this prestigious accreditation. In fact, only 1,500 correctional organizations throughout the Nation maintain this accreditation.